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HOUSE BILL 125

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY

Daniel R. Foley

AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES; CREATING THE OIL  
CONSERVATION DIVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
CREATED--TERMINATION.--The joint interim legislative "oil  
conservation division oversight committee" is created. The  
committee shall function from the date of its appointment until  
December 15, 2011.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT--VACANCIES.--

A. The oil conservation division oversight  
committee is composed of ten members. The New Mexico  
legislative council shall appoint five members from the house  
of representatives and five members from the senate and shall  
designate the chair and vice chair of the committee.

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1           B. Members shall be appointed from each house so as  
2 to give the two major political parties in each house the same  
3 proportionate representation on the committee as prevails in  
4 each house; however, in no event shall either party have less  
5 than one member from each house on the committee. At the  
6 request of the committee chair, members may be removed from the  
7 committee by the New Mexico legislative council for  
8 nonattendance according to council policy. Vacancies on the  
9 committee, however caused, may be filled by the council, or the  
10 council may reduce the size of the committee by not making  
11 replacement appointments and in that case need not readjust  
12 party representation.

13           C. An action shall not be taken by the committee if  
14 a majority of the total membership from either house on the  
15 committee rejects that action.

16           Section 3. DUTIES.--

17           A. After its appointment, the oil conservation  
18 division oversight committee shall hold one organizational  
19 meeting to develop a work plan and budget for the ensuing  
20 interim. The work plan and budget shall be submitted to the  
21 New Mexico legislative council for approval. Upon approval of  
22 the work plan and budget by the council, the committee shall:

23                   (1) examine the statutes, constitutional  
24 provisions and rules governing the oil conservation division of  
25 the energy, minerals and natural resources department;

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1                   (2) monitor and oversee the oil conservation  
2 division as it administers New Mexico's oil, gas and geothermal  
3 resources;

4                   (3) review issues that affect the state's oil  
5 conservation, including emissions, oil extraction and  
6 compliance with federal statutes and policies; and

7                   (4) make recommendations to the legislature  
8 relating to the adoption of rules and for suggested  
9 legislation, if any are found to be necessary.

10                  B. The committee shall regularly receive testimony  
11 from the secretaries of energy, minerals and natural resources;  
12 economic development; and environment.

13                  Section 4. SUBCOMMITTEES.--Subcommittees shall be created  
14 only by majority vote of all members appointed to the oil  
15 conservation division oversight committee and with the prior  
16 approval of the New Mexico legislative council. A subcommittee  
17 shall be composed of at least one member from the senate and  
18 one member from the house of representatives, and at least one  
19 member of the minority party shall be a member of the  
20 subcommittee. Any meeting or expenditure of a subcommittee  
21 shall be approved by the full committee in advance of that  
22 meeting or expenditure, and the approval shall be shown in the  
23 minutes of the committee.

24                  Section 5. REPORTS.--The oil conservation division  
25 oversight committee shall make reports of its findings and

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1 recommendations for the consideration of the first and second  
2 sessions of the forty-ninth and fiftieth legislatures. The  
3 reports and suggested legislation shall be made available to  
4 the New Mexico legislative council on or before December 15  
5 preceding each session.

6 Section 6. STAFF.--The staff for the oil conservation  
7 division oversight committee shall be provided primarily by the  
8 legislative council service, but the legislative council  
9 service may request the assistance of the legislative finance  
10 committee staff at the direction of the committee.

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